

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

41-399

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I have vetoed House Bill 632 which was passed at the recently adjourned regular session of the 50th Legislature.

This bill sought to prohibit public school fraternities, sororities, and secret societies.

There is a divided opinion among the people of Texas who have communicated with me about this matter whether such organizations should be allowed in our public schools.

The National Inter-fraternity Conference of Men's College Fraternities is on record as being opposed to high school and junior high school fraternities.

The most serious question, however, is where the responsibility lies for the control or abolition of these societies.

Since the decision in Wilson vs. Abilene Independent School District, 190 S. W. (2d) 406, rendered 1945, it is clear that local authorities have full power to do what this bill proposes. If they do not see fit to exercise this authority now, by what reason can we expect them to see that a state law on this subject is enforced? It is difficult to imagine who would file the complaints against violators of the Act.

Whatever our opinion may be on the propriety of allowing these high school fraternities and sororities to exist, I believe most of our people will agree that this would be a meaningless and an unenforceable law.

The proper remedy is already at hand. Local officials--backed by popular opinion--can take steps at any time they desire to correct the evils of which the proponents of the bill complain.

Just as I have tried as diligently as I could to protect the rights of the State against encroachment from Federal agencies, so do I believe that the authority and responsibility of local governmental units should be defended against interference by the State.

For these reasons I have decided that it is to the best interest of the State that this bill not become law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this the 26th day of June, A.D., 1947.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Benjamin Franklin
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

THIS 26 DAY OF June 1947

AT 8 O'CLOCK AND 59 MINUTES PM

Kirk R. Mallory
SECRETARY OF STATE

Assistant

Kirk R. Mallory
Assistant Secretary of State 2995